GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2464
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2016
TV Channels
Kumar Shri Ashwini;Mohammed Shri Faizal P.P.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from certain States including Delhi to start their official TV channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING {COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a) to (c) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has received proposals from Government of Gujarat, Government of Karnataka and Delhi Vidhan Sabha for getting into broadcasting activities. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its recommendations on 12.11.2008 'Issues relating to entry of certain entities into broadcasting and distribution activities' had, inter-alia, recommended that State Governments and urban and local bodies, Panchayati Raj bodies, political and religious bodies should not be allowed to enter into broadcasting activities, including distribution of TV channels. It further recommended that the aspirations of the State Governments, as regards broadcasting, can be adequately met by Prasar Bharati through its existing regional framework. In continuation of these recommendations, TRAI again on 20.12.2012 recommended that Central/State Ministries and Departments, Central/State Government owned companies, Central/State Government undertakings, Joint Ventures of State/Central Government and Central/State Governments' funded entities should not be allowed to enter into the business of broadcasting and/or distribution of TV channels. Detailed recommendations are available on the website of TRAI at www.trai.gov.in.
Policy making is a dynamic process which may be reviewed from time to time.

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